AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (canceled)

8. (new) A filtering body for a particle filter for filtering exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, the filtering body comprising:

a plurality of blocks of adjacent, alternately closed, passages with lateral walls through which exhaust gases are filtered,

wherein said blocks are in at least a first filter region and a second filter region, wherein a gas filtering surface area per unit of filter body front surface area is different in said first filter region than in said second filter region, and

wherein said blocks of said first filter region have a different surface density of said passages than said blocks of said second filter region.

9. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein said passages of said blocks in said first and second filter regions have an identical pitch and wherein said lateral walls of said passages of said blocks in said first filter region

have a thickness different than said lateral walls of said passages of said blocks in said second filter region.

10. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein said first filter region occupies a peripheral portion of the filtering body and said second filter region occupies a central portion of said filtering body, and wherein said peripheral portion has a greater gas filtering surface area per unit of filter body front surface area than said central portion.

11. (new) The filtering body according to claim 10, wherein said lateral walls of said passages of said blocks in said first and second filter regions have a same thickness and wherein a pitch of said passages of said blocks in said first filter region is less than a pitch of said passages of said blocks in said second filter region.

12. (new) The filtering body according to claim 10, wherein the surface density of said blocks in said first filter region is greater than the surface density of said blocks in said second filter region.

13. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein a one of said first and second filter regions having a greater gas filtering surface area per unit of filter body front surface area is adjacent to a heat source for initiating regeneration of the filtering body.

14. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein the gas filtering surface area per unit of filter body

front surface area of one of said first and second filter regions is at least 10% greater than that of the other of said first and second filter regions.

15. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein said lateral walls comprise one of silicon carbide and cordierite.

16. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein said lateral walls of said passages of said blocks in said first and second filter regions have a same thickness and wherein a pitch of said passages of said blocks in said first filter region is different than a pitch of said passages of said blocks in said second filter region.

17. (new) The filtering body according to claim 8, wherein said passages are triangular.

18. (new) A filtering body for a particle filter for filtering exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, the filtering body comprising:

a filter material that has plural passages with lateral walls through which exhaust gases are filtered, said filter material having a peripheral filter region and a central filter region,

said peripheral filter region having a greater gas filtering surface area per unit of filter body front surface area than said central filter region, and said peripheral filter region having a greater surface density of said passages than said central filter region.

19. (new) The filtering body according to claim 18, wherein said lateral walls of said passages of said peripheral and central filter regions have a same thickness and wherein a pitch of said passages of said peripheral filter region is less than a pitch of said passages in said central filter region.